

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04

MMS-01 ABF-01 EB-07 FS-01 SIG-01 /034 W

----- 007452

R 120437Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 866

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, AMGT, MU

SUBJECT: POST COMMENTS ON INSPECTION REPORT

REF: NEA/ARP TS DTD DEC. 10, 1974 AND JULY 1974

INSPECTION REPORT

FOR NEA/ARP

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED JULY 1974 INSPECTION REPORT WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SECTIONS DEALING WITH MUSCAT AND REGIONAL ASPECTS. WE CONSIDER REPORT TO BE A BALANCED, OBJECTIVE ONE, AND HAVE NO REAL PROBLEMS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. RECOMMENDATION 84. AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, POST HAS DECIDED AGAINST ANY EARLY SHIFT TO MEDINAT QABOOS FOR EMBASSY HOUSING. FBO-13 HAS BEEN IMPROVED. OTHER HOUSING PRESENTLY IN USE IS AS GOOD AS WE CAN HOPE TO FIND AT THIS TIME. HENCE, WHILE WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE NEED TO UPGRADE LONG-TERM HOUSING, WE PLAN MAINTAIN PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS OVER NEXT 2-3 YEARS.

B. RECOMMENDATION 85. EMBASSY NOW HAS "ON LINE" COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY INCLUDING ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

C. RECOMMENDATION 86. AN E&E PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED  
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AND SUBMITTED.

D. RECOMMENDATION 87. EMBASSY, WORKING WITH RSO, HAS RESOLVED ALL BUT ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MARCH 1974 SECURITY SURVEY REPORT. THIS LAST ITEM (GRILLING OF AIRCONDITIONERS ON SECOND FLOOR) WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN MODIFIED FORM FOLLOWING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH RSO/KUWAIT.

E. RECOMMENDATION 88. CEO-R FROM TEHRAN VISITED MUSCAT IN DECEMBER; EMERGENCY VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT NOW FULLY OPERABLE.

F. RECOMMENDATION 89. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WILL SOON BE RECEIVING PROPOSED CERP FOR COMMENTS BEFORE IT IS INSTITUTED OFFICIALLY. EAL IS GENERALIZED AND HAS NOT BEEN OF PARTICULAR USE.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS 90, 94. THE EMBASSY HAS REGULARIZED STATUS OF AMBASSADOR'S DRIVER. RE OTHER PERSONNEL (I.E. GUARDS, GARDENER, JANITORS AND HANDYMAN FOR TOTAL OF 8), WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT NON-PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT NOT FEASIBLE. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS DO NOT EXIST LOCALLY, AND WE WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH BOTH ORGANIZATION AND PRECEDENT IF WE WERE TO PURSUE THIS SOLUTION. ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE TO CONTINUE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OR TO INCREASE AUTHORIZED STAFFING TO PERMIT FSLE HIRING. WE COULD HANDLE LATTER WITH NET INCREASE OF SIX POSITIONS IF DEPARTMENT SO DECIDES.

H. RECOMMENDATIONS 91, 95. WITH COMPLETION OF PRELIMINARY SAS STUDY AND FINANCIAL PLAN SUBMISSION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER NOW WILL GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO PREPARATION OF PROPERTY INVENTORIES

I. RECOMMENDATION 92. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IS BEING EXPANDED FROM PRESENT ONE-BEDROOM UNIT INTO THIRD-FLOOR APARTMENT FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY TCU, SOON AS DEPT. PROVIDES NECESSARY FUNDS. PLAN FOR POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SMALL OFFICE BUILDING IS BEING DISCUSSED WITH LANDLORD'S REPRESENTATIVE; IF DISCUSSIONS INDICATE THIS IS FEASIBLE, PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. IN MEANTIME, OFFICE SPACE/ARRANGEMENT CONTINUES TO BE marginally ADEQUATE UNTIL POST'S AUTHORIZED LOCAL COMPLEMENT IS BROUGHT UP TO FULL

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STRENGTH.

J. RECOMMENDATION 93. RELATED TO POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING NEW BUILDING WOULD BE PROVISION OF STORAGE SPACE.

K. RECOMMENDATION 97. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO ACT IN ABSENCE OF CONSUL (AND DID SO DURING RECENT HL OF LATTER).

3. IN ADDITION TO RECOMMENDATIONS DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH EMBASSY MUSCAT (PARA 2 ABOVE), THIS POST ENDORSES INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION NO. 121 RE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL B&F POSITION. IF ACTED UPON BY DEPT, EMBASSY WOULD PROPOSE THAT PRESENT AMERICAN B&F POSITION AT MUSCAT BE CONVERTED TO A GSO.

4. EMBASSY ALSO SUPPORTS INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION NO. 100 (IN SECTION ON ABU DHABI). IN OUR OWN E&E PLAN, WE HAVE NOTED NEED FOR CLARIFICATION AND, AS NECESSARY, RENEGOTIATION OF EXISTING US/UK PLANS FOR LOWER GULF.

5. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT DISAGREE WITH REASONING OUTLINED ON PAGE 18 OF BASIC REPORT (RE ASSIGNMENT OF FSO CONSULS), WE NOTE THAT CONSULAR WORKLOAD AT MUSCAT PRESENTLY NOT SO ONEROUS AS TO JUSTIFY SUCH A SOLUTION. FOR TIME BEING, PRESENT ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.  
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